

## How does this affect me?

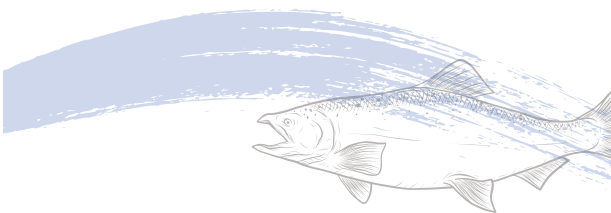
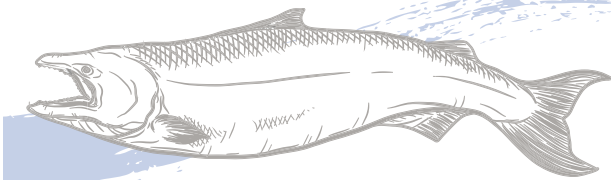
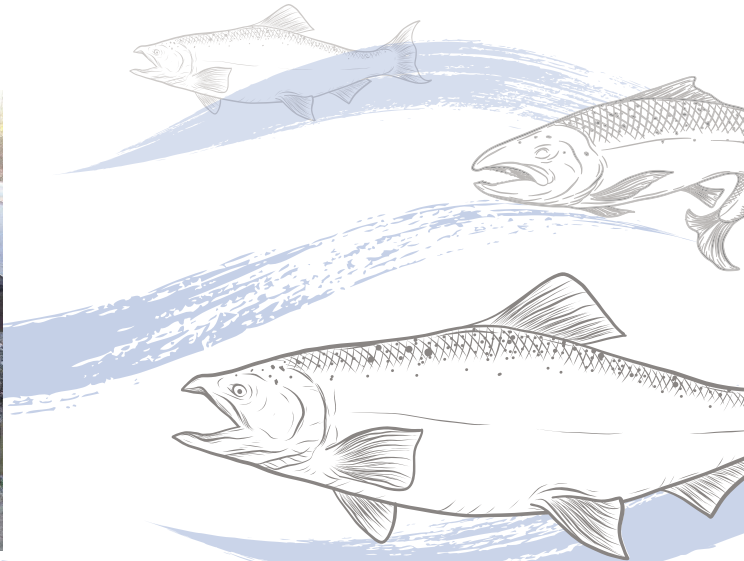
To get information needed to understand the current nature of streams and project sites (including areas upstream and downstream), survey crews may need to access your property. Please refer to the letter mailed to you that provides more information about the survey and examination work WSDOT may conduct on your property. Should more extensive investigation be required, you will be contacted directly by a WSDOT representative. Thank you for your cooperation, it is critical to ensuring projects have the best data for the best project outcomes.



## Where can I go to find more information?

For more information about WSDOT's Fish Passage work, please visit our webpages.

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/FishPassage](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/FishPassage)



**Title VI Notice to Public:** It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7090.

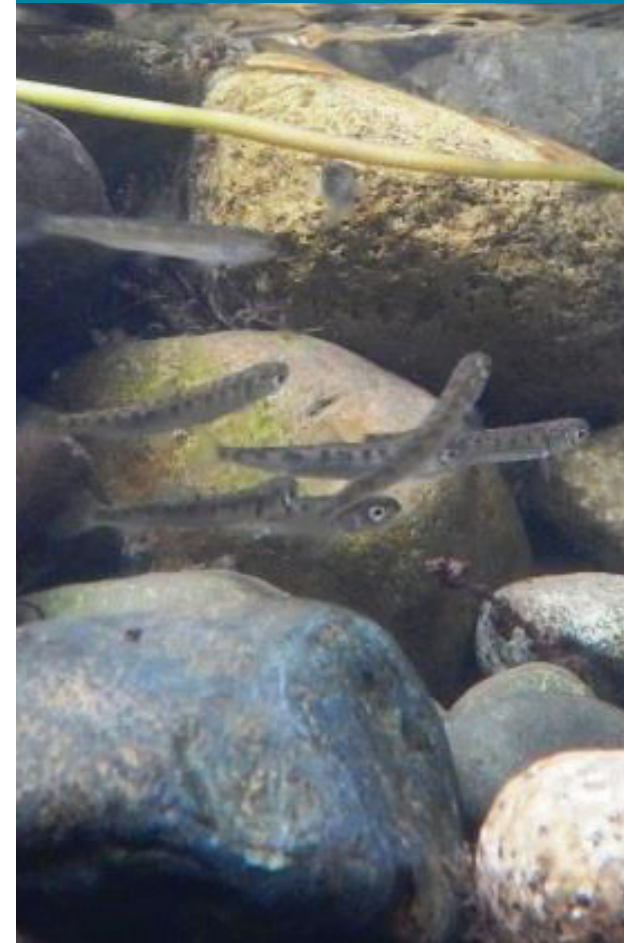
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21-10-0250



## WSDOT FISH BARRIER CORRECTION

Delivering Projects,  
Connecting Habitat



# Why is WSDOT fixing barriers to fish?

To protect and restore salmon runs, the Washington State Department of Transportation is correcting fish barriers found on state highways. Since 1991, when WSDOT created a dedicated program, 365 barriers have been corrected, opening a total of 1,215 miles of fish habitat. In addition to WSDOT's ongoing work to correct statewide barriers, a 2013 federal court injunction also requires WSDOT to correct culverts that are barriers to salmon and steelhead within the case area in western Washington. Between the time the injunction

was issued through June 2021, WSDOT has corrected 86 injunction barriers, improving access to more than 383 miles of habitat. But there is more work to be done. There are approximately 1,000 culverts under state highways that are subject to this injunction. In addition to the barriers already corrected, WSDOT must correct approximately 400 remaining injunction fish barriers by the year 2030 by replacing culverts with bridges or larger culverts that allow for natural stream conditions to pass under the state highways.



Tawes Creek (before). The culvert was a fish barrier due to high velocities and low flow depths.



Tawes Creek (after). WSDOT replaced the undersized culvert with a 20-ft-wide x 6-foot tall structure.

Opening habitat allows more salmon and steelhead at all life stages (including juveniles who are not yet strong swimmers like adults) to access important spawning and rearing habitat, including areas that have not been accessed in years. WSDOT's efforts to correct fish passage barriers are making an important contribution to salmon and steelhead recovery in Washington.



**PROJECT EXAMPLE:** Barrier correction at State Route 6 Salmon Creek, constructed in 2019. WSDOT replaced an undersized culvert with a bridge, which included minor channel grading downstream and upstream to mimic natural stream conditions. This project restored fish passage and natural stream processes such as transport of sediment and wood. This project builds upon previous restoration efforts on Salmon Creek. Washington State Parks replaced the downstream barrier crossing for the Willapa Hills Trail with a fish passable bridge in 2015. These efforts together improve stream function and fish access.

